

Sunday March 22, 2020

Dear all,

We are finally underway! After many days of uncertainty and conflicting information, as you know we finally received clear instructions yesterday morning, about 6 hours prior to departure. With the seven days we are allowed to conduct science, steaming time, and weather predictions, it was quite clear that we wouldn't be doing a significant repeat of GO-SHIP A13.5. We are still trying to decide what to call this cruise. On today's CTD test cast I used "COVID A13.5" as the cruise name.

To summarize our instructions: we are to stay within 96 hours of steaming from Cape Town in case of medical emergencies related to COVID-19 for 7 days. During this time we can conduct science. After this time we are to steam straight into Norfolk, VA. There is a chance that we will be able to do CTD casts at crossovers with other GO-SHIP lines along the way (e.g. A16, A05, A20-A22).

For the 7 days allotted, we have decided to prioritize BGC-Argo SOCCOM float deployment sites because these floats will provide good BGC data and help cover the gaps left by the cancellation of A13.5.

We are also facing significant weather in the area, so we took that into consideration when selecting the station locations.

For now, here is a plan of what we intend to do in the time we have:

Station 1: 43.00 S, 1.00 E BGC-Float + CTD

Station 2: 42.00 S, 1.15 E BGC-Float + CTD

Station 3: 41.00 S, 0.97 E BGC-Float + CTD

Station 4: 37.00 S, 1.00 E BGC-Float + CTD

Station 5: 36.00 S, 0.98 E CTD only (bad weather buffer)

Station 6: 35.00 S, 1.00 E BGC-Float + CTD

Station 7: 34.00 S, 1.01 E CTD only (bad weather buffer)

Station 8: 33.00 S, 0.98 E BGC-Float + CTD

During the transit back to Norfolk we will increase discrete underway sampling frequency to every two hours to at least improve the horizontal resolution of our surface data.

Our ETA at Norfolk is on or around April 21-22.

Please let me know if you would like additional people added to this mailing list or if you would like to be removed from the list. I will use the list to provide updates during the cruise. All updates will also be posted to the cruise website:

[https://www.aoml.noaa.gov/ocd/gcc/A13.5\\_2020](https://www.aoml.noaa.gov/ocd/gcc/A13.5_2020)

Everyone aboard is healthy and motivated to do what little science we have been allowed to conduct.

Best regards,

Leticia

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The contents of this message are mine personally and do not necessarily reflect any position of the Government or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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